

Madam Speaker, I commend and honor these American heroes—recognition of their bravery will be forever memorialized in the U.S. Congress with these remarks. Their dedication to the cause of freedom and democracy shall never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING FLOWER
MOUND HIGH SCHOOL DRUMLINE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Flower Mound High School Drumline in Flower Mound, Texas. The Flower Mound High School Drumline has been named "Best Drumline in the Nation" by the Percussive Arts Society International Marching Festival competition in Columbus, Ohio, and for the first time, was awarded the nationally acknowledged Fred Sanford Award.

The Flower Mound High School Drumline's show, entitled "Primary Focus," is centered on the idea that music is the main part of the number. Along with the "Best Drumline" award, individual students at Flower Mound High School also received awards for Best Snare Pit, Best Tenor Line and Best Ensemble. The forty-two member drumline competes annually in indoor and outdoor competitions, as well as marching in the half time shows during the football season.

It is my honor to represent a group that shows such talent, hard work, and dedication at such a young age. I extend my sincere congratulations to The Flower Mound High School Drumline.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcalls 1090 and 1091 Wednesday, November 14. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 1090 on Agreeing to the Conference Report on H.R. 1429, the Improving Head Start Act and "yea" on rollcall 1091 to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3845 PROTECT Our Children Act.

HONORING CORINNE WHITLATCH
AND CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE
EAST PEACE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corinne Whitlatch on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace. During her twenty-one years of service, Corinne made a significant contribution to helping policymakers understand the churches' positions and roles in Middle East peacemaking. I appreciate and

admire her advocacy in support of a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that allows two states—Israel and Palestine—to live in peace and security as neighbors.

Corinne Whitlatch's dedication to achieving peace in the Holy Land and commitment to ensuring a positive future for both the Israelis and Palestinians is admirable. I greatly value the efforts she has made to help both Members of Congress and church congregants approach these issues with compassion and empathy.

As I have worked in support of Israel, of the Palestinian people, and of achieving a two-state solution, I have been proud to stand side by side with Corinne and Churches for Middle East Peace's members, as well as Jewish-Americans and Arab-Americans. My Lutheran upbringing has given me the firm conviction of the important role faith communities have in communicating a message of peace. Under Corinne's leadership, Churches for Middle East Peace has been an important voice on Capitol Hill to communicate this same message.

Madam Speaker, I would like to sincerely thank Corinne for her service on behalf of peace. She will certainly be missed, but I am confident that the fine work of Churches for Middle East Peace will continue and will help see us through a time when the vision of two states is a reality.

EMPLOYMENT NON-
DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3685) to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation:

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act because I believe it erodes our family values and the foundation of our Nation.

All people should live without fear of harassment. However, this legislation would create a newly protected class based on "perceived" sexual orientation. The term "perceived" and how it applies to the workplace will be subject to endless litigation and will ultimately be defined by the court system. It will open the door for anyone of any sexual orientation to claim to have been discriminated against on the basis of perceived sexual orientation. I am disappointed that this will become the latest example of unelected officials deciding an issue for the Legislative branch.

Meanwhile, faith-based institutions such as summer camps, Bible book stores or Christian schools will be the ones held hostage. The bill inappropriately excludes the hundreds or even thousands of religious schools that identify themselves as non-denominational. Unfortunately, the definition of a religious organization does not adequately cover religious schools that are not "controlled, managed, owned, or supported by a particular religion, religious corporation, association or society."

To attempt to meet exemptions, these faith-based institutions would be subject to highly

inappropriate federal intrusion into their religious activities to determine, in essence, if they are religious "enough." Meanwhile it puts schools that are not directly associated with a church at risk. In *Baltimore Lutheran High School Assn v. Employment Security Admin.*, 490A.2d 701 (Md. 1985), an unemployment case, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals ruled against the school declaring it was not "operated primarily for religious purposes." However, the school conducted mandatory chapel services and attempted to integrate a distinctly Christian worldview into all of its courses.

As this current bill would result in a fundamental departure from the longstanding framework of the Civil Rights Act, widespread litigation, a trampling of hiring protections for many faith-based institutions, and an undermining of state laws that define and protect marriage, I will vote to oppose it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on November 13, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 1082.

Had I been present would have voted: rollcall No. 1082—"yea."

SHAW UNIVERSITY BEARS
FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shaw University Bears football team for winning the 2007 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, CIAA, Championship, under the leadership of head coach Darrell Asberry. After a hard fought season, the Bears defeated Virginia Union University in a dazzling double overtime performance 31–24 at the Charlotte Memorial Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina, on November 10, 2007.

Madam Speaker, Shaw University has contributed significantly to the growth and development of North Carolina and the enrichment of countless of its citizens. I am proud to have the honor of representing this outstanding institution. It is fitting that we take a moment today to honor these young athletes as shining stars for the university.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE
INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Independent Living, Inc., based in Newburgh, New York, as it celebrates the